

Summary: the “National Energy Workforce and Providing Recovery Opportunities to Manage the Industry’s Shifting Economics (NEW PROMISE) Act”

Rep. Tom O’Halleran (AZ-01)

Section 1- Findings: Expresses the sense of Congress that since 2010 coal fired generation has significantly declined and outlines the impacts of coal-fired generation station closures on workers and local communities.

Section 2- White House Council on Energy Transitions: Establishes within the White House the Council on Energy Transitions. The new Council will be led by a Senate-confirmed Director and be responsible for:

- Regularly monitoring and reporting data on the impacts of coal-fired generation station closures on local communities in measurable terms such as lost tax-revenue, workforce impacts, and energy affordability;
- Conducting outreach to impacted, or potentially impacted communities from coal-fired generation station closures and facilitate the establishment of locally driven Regional Transition Advisory Committees;
- Managing a Coal Community Resource Clearinghouse, which will compile and maintain updated information for local communities on Federal and State support programs to aid in economic transition activities;
- Maintaining a team of grant specialists within the Council to assist each impacted community in identifying and completing applications to available Federal and State support programs;
- Being responsive to an Advisory Body comprised of labor, utility, environmental, academic, and economic development representatives. The Advisory Body may conduct public outreach to impacted communities, solicit recommendations for federal actions the Council may consider, and develop an annual report of recommendations for the Council and Director.

Section 3- Regional Transition Advisory Committees

- Comprised of local government, labor, utility, environmental, academic, and economic development leaders, Regional Transition Advisory Committees will represent the needs of economically distressed communities and work closely with the Director and Council to develop Economic Development Transition Plans.
- Economic Development Transition Plans created by Regional Transition Advisory Committees will assist impacted communities prepare to diversify their local economies by outlining economic development goals, establishing timelines to implement development projects, and create evaluation metrics to track the progress of economic revitalization work.

Section 4- Rural and Remote Communities Electrification Grants: Reauthorizes the Rural and Remote Communities Electrifications Grants program established Section 609 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act ([7 U.S.C. 918c](#)) and:

- Increases the maximum definition of a “rural area” from a population of 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants or less;
- Expands the eligibility of the grant program to also include “economically distressed communities”, defined as a community significantly impacted by the closure of a coal-fired generation station after January 1, 2020 (see definition in Sec. 8 of the Act);
- Expands the use of the grant to also include the repurposing of recently closed coal-fired generation facilities for alternative uses including manufacturing and for the deployment of energy storage technologies.

Section 5- Advanced Notice to Communities: Amends Section 111 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act by adding at the end an “Advanced Notice of Closure” requirement for electric utilities to notify potentially impacted local governments of the projected date of seasonal operations or closure of a coal-fired generating unit or facility. Such seasonal operations or closure shall not occur within 3-years of providing such notice to potentially impacted local governments. Require State regulatory authorities to consider the implementation of the Advanced Notice of Closure Standard as amended in this section.

Section 6- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Directs the Secretary of Labor and Director of the White House Council to establish a 10-year pilot program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide robust education or training opportunities to dislocated workers from the downturn of coal-fired electric generation to enter jobs in emerging energy-related industries.

Section 7- Covered Electric Generating Station Cessation Mitigation Fund: Establishes a “Covered Electric Generating Station Cessation Mitigation Fund” managed by the Secretary of Treasury to mitigate, over a 7 year period, the revenue losses incurred following the closure of a coal-fired generating station in an economically distressed community.

Section 8- Definitions